

Department of Physiology and Pharmacology
Pharmacology 4360: Mechanisms of Cancer Chemotherapy

Course outline for Winter 2021



Although this academic year might be different, Western University is committed to a **thriving campus**. We encourage you to check out the [Digital Student Experience](#) website to manage your academics and well-being. Additionally, the following link provides available resources to support students on and off campus: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

1. Technical Requirements:



Stable internet connection



Laptop or computer



Working microphone



Working webcam (suggested)

2. Course Overview and Important Dates:



Delivery Mode	Dates	Time
Online (asynchronous)	Lectures released weekly on Wednesday	

*Details about design and delivery of the course are listed below in Section 4

Classes Start	Reading Week	Classes End	Study day	Exam Period
January 11	February 13 - 21	April 12	April 13	April 14 - 30

*March 14, 2021: Last day to drop a second-term half course or a second-term full course without penalty

3. Contact Information



Course Coordinator	Contact Information
Dr. Lina Dagnino	Use OWL message

Instructor(s) or Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information
Dr. John Di Guglielmo	Use OWL message
Ms. Stephanie Wojtowicz (TA)	Use OWL message

4. Course Description and Design

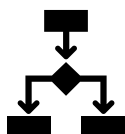
Pharm 4360B is a half course to introduce students to the basic and advanced concepts in cancer biology and therapeutic properties of some anticancer agents. Recent advances in our understanding of the molecular and genetic basis of cancer as well as how signaling is altered in cancer cells are discussed, as well as how these alterations have led to modern targeted cancer therapies.

Requisites:

Prerequisite(s): Pharmacology 3620, or Physiology 3140, or permission from the Department.

Corequisite(s): None

Antirequisite(s): None



Mode	Dates	Time	Frequency
Virtual asynchronous	N/A	2 hours	Weekly
Virtual synchronous			

All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the [OWL Help page](#). Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

[Google Chrome](#) or [Mozilla Firefox](#) are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL; up you're your browsers frequently. Students interested in evaluating their internet speed, please click [here](#).

5. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the major mechanisms involved in tumour formation and progression.
- Understand the hallmarks of cancer and their relevance to carcinogenesis.
- Understand the mechanisms of action of drugs and macromolecules used to treat a variety of carcinogenic tumours.
- Be capable of critically reviewing relevant scientific literature.
- Be capable of designing experiments to test hypotheses related to carcinogenesis.
- Be capable of communicating complex concepts related to carcinogenesis to both scientific and lay audiences



6. Course Content and Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic	Instructor
1	Jan 11 – 17	Course introduction. Introduction to Cancer Biology. Hallmarks of Cancer. Selective proliferative advantage, cellular senescence	LD
2	Jan 18 – 24	Cell cycle and resistance to apoptosis. Retinoblastoma tumours	LD
3	Jan 25 – 31	Cancer biology: Changes in cell metabolism (Warburg effect)	LD
4	Feb 1 – 7	Cancer biology: Stress response changes. Autophagy. Preclinical cancer models and cancer stem cells Topics for first assignment by LD	LD
5	Feb 8 – 14	Immunotherapies and immunomodulation Quiz No. 1: Lecture material from Jan 11 to Feb 7, inclusive	LD
6	Feb 15 – 21	Reading Week	LD
7	Feb 22 – 28	Written assignment due (Turnitin) by 12:00 PM EST on Feb 10 th , 2020 Recorded presentation by student groups of assignment, due by 12:00 PM EST on Feb 24 th , 2021	N/A
8	Mar 1 – 7	EMT, invasion, metastasis. Tumour vascularization. Microenvironment and cancer-associated fibroblasts	JD
9	Mar 8 – 14	Cancer chemotherapy. Receptor tyrosine kinases, Part 1 Second assignment: Scientific paper for discussion assigned by JD	JD
10	Mar 15 – 21	Receptor tyrosine kinases, Part 2	JD
11	Mar 22 – 28	Written 2 nd assignment due (Turnitin) by 12:00 PM EST on March 28 th , 2021	JD
12	Mar 29 – Apr 4	Receptor Ser/Thr kinases, Part 1	JD
13	Apr 5- Apr 12	Receptor Ser/Thr kinases, Part 1 Quiz No. 2: Lecture material from Feb 8th to April 4th, inclusive	JD



7. Online Participation and Engagement



- Students are expected to participate and engage with content as much as possible
- Students can also participate by interacting in the forums with their peers and instructors

8. Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date
Quiz No. 1 (30 min)	Short answer	15%	February 10th
Assignment No. 1	Written assignment and recorded presentation by students	15%	February 24th
Assignment No. 2	Written assignment	10%	March 28 th
Quiz No. 2	Short answer	15%	April 7 th
Final exam	Take home exam	45%	April exam period (TBA)

- All assignments are due at the times indicated in this syllabus and in OWL, when the assignment is released
- Written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin (statement in policies below)
- Students will have 1 (one) submission to Turnitin
- Rubrics will be used to evaluate assessments and will be posted with the instructions
- After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days



Click [here](#) for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning examinations and grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

Information about late or missed evaluations:

- Late assessments without a self-reported absence or approved documentation reviewed by academic counselling will be subject to a late penalty 25%/day
- Late assessments with a self-reported absence should be submitted within 24 hours of submission of the last day of the self-report absence
- An assessment cannot be submitted after it has been returned to the class; the weight will be transferred to the final grade
- The weight of a missed test or missed assignment will be transferred to the final exam
- If a make-up exam is missed, the student will receive an INC and complete the task the next time the course is offered

There will be no make-up for missed quizzes or missed assignments. Accommodation for quizzes, assignments, presentations and paper analyses (reports and oral presentations) requires proper documentation, as described below, in the “Absence from course commitments” section. If one of the above activities is missed and accommodation is granted, re-weighting of the final exam will take place.

9. Communication:



- Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours
- Students should email their instructor(s) and teaching assistant(s) using OWL “messages”
- Emails will be monitored daily; students will receive a response in 24 – 48 hours
- This course will use the OWL forum for discussions
- Students should post all course-related content on the discussion forum so that everyone can access answers to questions
- The discussion forums will be monitored daily by instructors or teaching assistants

10. Office Hours:



- Office hours may be held remotely using Zoom by some instructors (these will be announced on OWL)
- Students will be able to sign up for an appointment using Sign Up on OWL

11. Resources



- All resources will be posted in OWL

12. Professionalism & Privacy:



Western students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#). Additionally, the following expectations and professional conduct apply to this course:

- Students are expected to follow online etiquette expectations provided on OWL
- All course materials created by the instructor(s) are copyrighted and cannot be sold/shared
- Recordings are not permitted (audio or video) without explicit permission
- Permitted recordings are not to be distributed
- Students will be expected to take an academic integrity pledge before some assessments
- All recorded sessions will remain within the course site or unlisted if streamed

13. How to Be Successful in this Class:



Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.

1. Invest in a planner or application to keep track of your courses. Populate all your deadlines at the start of the term and schedule time at the start of each week to get organized and manage your time.
2. Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
3. Follow weekly checklists created on OWL or create your own to help you stay on track.
4. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Treat this course as you would a face-to-face course. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document

- will help you learn more effectively than just reading or watching the videos.
5. Connect with others. Try forming an online study group and try meeting on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
 6. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards or contact your instructor(s) and or teaching assistant(s).
 7. Reward yourself for successes. It seems easier to motivate ourselves knowing that there is something waiting for us at the end of the task.

14. Western Academic Policies and Statements

Absence from Course Commitments

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences](#)

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, you must seek approval for the absence as soon as possible. Approval can be granted either through a **self-reported absence** or via the **Academic Counselling** unit. Students have two self-reports to use throughout the academic year; absence from course commitments including tests, quizzes, presentations, labs, and assignments that are worth 30% or less can be self-reported. Self-reported absences cover a student for 48 hours (yesterday + today or today + tomorrow). Your instructor will receive notification of your consideration; however, you should contact your instructor immediately regarding your absence. Students are expected to submit missed work within 24 hours of the end of the 48-hour period. Please review details of the [university's policy on academic consideration for student absences](#).

If you have used both their self-reported absences or will miss more than 48 hours of course requirements, a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) should be signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner and you should contact academic counselling. Academic Counselling will be operating virtually this year and can be contacted at scibmsac@uwo.ca.

Accommodation for Religious Holidays

The policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays can be viewed [here](#).

Special Examinations

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examinations dates. These dates as well as other important information about examinations and academic standing can be found [here](#).

Academic Offences

“Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed [here](#) to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence.

Accessibility Statement

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education (AE) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation or review [The policy on Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Correspondence Statement

The centrally administered **e-mail account** provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner. You can read about the privacy and security of the UWO email accounts [here](#).

Turnitin and other similarity review software

All assignments will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. Students will be able to view their results before the final submission. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western University and [Turnitin.com](#).

15. BMSUE Academic Policies and Statements

Copyright and Audio/Video Recording Statement

Course material produced by faculty is copyrighted and to reproduce this material for any purposes other than your own educational use contravenes Canadian Copyright Laws. You must always ask permission to record another individual and you should never share or distribute recordings.

Rounding of Marks Statement

Across the Basic Medical Sciences Undergraduate Education programs, we strive to maintain high standards that reflect the effort that both students and faculty put into the teaching and learning experience during this course. All students will be treated equally and evaluated based only on their actual achievement. **Final grades** on this course, irrespective of the number of decimal places used in marking individual assignments and tests, will be calculated to one decimal place and rounded to the nearest integer, e.g., 74.4 becomes 74, and 74.5 becomes 75. Marks WILL NOT be bumped to the next grade or GPA, e.g. a 79 will NOT be bumped up to an 80, an 84 WILL NOT be bumped up to an 85, etc. The mark attained is the mark you achieved, and the mark assigned; requests for mark "bumping" will be denied.

16. Support Services

The following links provide information about support services at Western University.

[Academic Counselling \(Science and Basic Medical Sciences\)](#)

[Appeal Procedures](#)

[Registrarial Services](#)

[Student Development Services](#)

[Student Health Services](#)